

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects

Date (month / year): March 2010

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

47 83

TEW 11

Town: Tewksbury

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)
Tewksbury Center

Address: 30 East Street

Historic Name: Jonathan Gray House

Uses: Present: Three-Unit Residence
Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: c1786

Source: Vital Records & Style

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Aluminum Siding

Roof: Tin Tile/Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Replacement Siding (late 20th Century)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no | X | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 0.34 Acres

Setting: Located in a residential area in the village center on a major travel corridor to I-93.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

30 EAST STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

TEW 11

___ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The two story house at **30 East Street** is a rectangular dwelling. The five by one bay building rests on a granite foundation. The side gable roof is sheathed in tin tiles. The walls are clad with aluminum siding. The front entrance is centrally located on the symmetrical southern façade. The narrow panel replacement door is enframed by simple pilasters under a decorative lintel. Two granite steps lead to the main entrance. Fenestration includes 6/6 replacement sash windows and 2/2 wood sash windows. A pair of original interior chimney appear to have been removed.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to an earlier survey form the dwelling at 30 East Street was built c 1750 however a history of the Town published in 1934 indicates the house was built in 1769. It is known locally as the Jonathan Gray House. Jonathan Gray was born in 1754 in Billerica to Braviter and Bethyah [Hill] Gray. He served with Captain John Trull and his Minutemen in the battle at Merriam's Corner near Lexington on April 19, 1775. He married Mary Needham in 1786. They had several children including Bravity in 1789. Bravity later lived next door at 20 East Street (TEW.09). Jonathan Gray died in 1817 of 'gravel'. His widow, Mary, died in 1825 of a fever. That same year, their son Bravity [Brevity] and his wife Sarah had a son, William Henry Gray.

The Federal details of the dwelling are typical of house built c1780-1810. If Jonathan Gray is the original owner, it was likely constructed closer to 1786. Additional deed research might identify an earlier owner or an internal investigation might indicate an earlier construction date.

William H Gray, a merchant, married in 1848 at age 22 to Mary, daughter of Lucy and Samuel Thompson. William Gray and his wife lived in the house at 30 East Street c1852.

In 1865 Sarah B Gray, the widow of Bravity Gray, sold the property at 30 East Street, which was adjacent to her own at 20 East Street (TEW.09) to Samuel Thompson, the father of her daughter-in-law Mary. Samuel married his wife Lucy Clark in Tewksbury in 1816 and they lived for many years on Pleasant Street. The Thompsons were also the parents of James and Martha Thompson Lee, the second wife of George Lee, a local tanner at 17 Lee Street (TEW.15). George Lee died in 1883. In 1890 Martha T Lee was living in Wilmington. Property valuations indicate Mrs. Lee owned the "Thompson House", two other houses in Tewksbury, as well as part of the George Lee Estate.

Martha's brother James had a son, James Edgar Thompson. He and his wife Harriet inherited the 30 East Street house from his aunt. They sold the house in 1917 to Albert Briggs of 36 East Street (TEW.12). In 1929 Albert Briggs sold the house to his son Harris M Briggs.

The house was owned by: Albert Briggs (1917-1929); Harris M Briggs, the Town's Tree Warden, his wife Nellie, and family (1929-1956); James Zousimas, a nurse's aid, & his wife Josephine (1956-1980); and Kenneth & Helen Holden (1980-2009).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

U.S. Census Records. 1790-1930.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWNSHIP

30 EAST STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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Directories. 1896-97, 1898-99, 1900-01, 1911-12, 1913-14, 1915-16, 1919, 1927, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1937-38, 1940-41, 1942-1943, 1949 [Ancestry], 1953, 1955, 1961, and 1967.

Map of the Town of Tewksbury 1852. Henry F Walling. Boston, MA.

1865 Map of Tewkesbury with inset.

Atlas of Middlesex County 1875. FW Beers.

Atlas of Middlesex County 1889. Geo H Walker & Co.

List of Residents by Streets, Ages 17 years and over, In the Town of Tewksbury Mass. As prepared by the Board of Registrars (various years 1965-)

Valuations of the Real and Personal Estate of the Town of Tewksbury.

North Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.

_____. *Ye Towne Book*. Town of Tewksbury. 1934.

Patton, Harold J. *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. Higginson Book Co. 1964.



Image from Patton's *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

Tewksbury 30 East Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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Harris Melvin Briggs Sr (1885-1952) & his son Robert Peasley Briggs (1919-2002)